

HOUSE No. 789

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Murphy

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to protect and preserve family camping in Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James M. Murphy

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

4th Norfolk

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 816 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE FAMILY CAMPING IN MASSACHUSETTS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *Whereas*, the land and waters within the Commonwealth have distinct natural, architectural,
2 archeological, recreational, economic, agricultural and other values;

3 *Whereas*, The obligation to protect the many valuable resources of the Commonwealth is shared by local,
4 regional, state and national governments, civic organizations, businesses and the general public;

5 *Whereas*, such resources can only be protected by effective planning designed to bring about the
6 coordination and cooperation among the various levels of government, the private sector, and the general public
7 concerning land use decisions and planning for responsible and sustainable development in a manner that protects
8 both the environment and the economic well-being of the Commonwealth;

9 *Whereas*; The common good of the Commonwealth is served by promoting responsible and sustainable
10 development and protecting open space;

11 *Whereas*; tourism is an integral component of the Commonwealth's economy and family camping is a
12 significant segment of the tourism market bringing families from all over the country as well as from many other
13 nations;

14 *Whereas*; the family camping experience is endangered as a result of significant economic and
15 developmental pressures;

16 *It is hereby resolved*, That in order to protect and preserve the great family camping vacation experience
17 within the Commonwealth the Department of Environmental Protection shall conduct a study and report back to the
18 Legislature by December 31, 2010 with a comprehensive review and action plan which will be conducted with input
19 from the Massachusetts Association of Campground Owners and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
20 Said action plan shall present matters of vital interest that need to be addressed as well as a provide a legislative and

21 regulatory framework that may be required to be undertaken in order to effectively protect and preserve family
22 camping in the Commonwealth.